

COA Minutes - February 8, 2023

Meeting called to order 10 AM by Shirley Wood, Chair

Coordinator Update

Polly is on the One Plainfield Committee and informs us that there might already be funds to plan a community center, aside from monies we might get from One Plainfield. Polly would like to get a committee together to explore the possibilities.

Twenty-six percent of the technology surveys filed by the Consortium have been returned. Plainfield has 70 responses out of the 273 mailed. We should encourage everyone to send them back, even non-users of technology.

The Office of Elder Affairs (OEA) does not want to fund the COA newsletter anymore. The Consortium met with an aide to State Representative Lindsey Sabadosa who will advocate to make this expense a permanent line in the State budget and therefore not subject this annual expense to OEA rejection.

Peg Whalen will continue to give free one-on-one tech support after the COA luncheon to elders who want this service.

The HVES multicultural grant of \$600 will support a 4-hour Chakra/Yoga/Arts workshop on February 29th. Judy Messer will lead the program.

Polly is being trained to update the content of the Consortium website. The goal is to make it more user-friendly and have current content.

Polly has completed the COA report for the Annual Town Report but would like assistance in preparing and submitting our budget. Ann has had some experience doing this and has volunteered to help her.

Sandy Powers has resigned from the job of sending birthday cards to Plainfield's seniors from the COA. We will publicly thank her in the Plainfield Post and ask for someone else to volunteer.

We need to seek guidance from Brian Hawthorne to assist in getting the minutes of our COA meetings back on the town website.

Linda Carver should be thanked for preparing the entire corned beef and cabbage meal for our March luncheon. Linda suggested having the luncheon on March 15th instead of March 8th since the corned beef will be less expensive during the week of St. Patrick's Day. It was agreed that we should ask Linda to consider rejoining the Board.

Polly will either reschedule or cancel the February 18th meeting of Dementia Friends. She will not be available on that day.

Caleb Kosier's computer support sessions are now over. Those who need guidance can get free help from Peg Whalen after the COA luncheons.

Polly will lead "Dancing with Polly" at 10 am on March 29th at the town hall, an activity that will promote exercise, fellowship, and fun.

Polly will contact librarian, Denise Sessions, to determine whether her access to free tickets to various events might benefit the COA.

March 17th is the date set for the COA sponsored free trip to the Clark Art Museum in Williamstown. The bus, which accommodates 12 riders, will also be free. Lunch at the museum will be out-of-pocket.

Polly will go through Susan Pearson's notes and folders to update the COA's Senior Resources Folders.

We will try to have a letter of support for the COA newsletter ready for people to sign after the March COA luncheon.

Meeting adjourned at 11 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Potter